

WILSON SEALS  
FRENCH PACTPresident, Voicing Nation's  
Spirit, Gives Brother's  
Hand to Joffre.

## FRENCH VISIT WHITE HOUSE

Cheering Crowds Greet Envoys  
Calling on Cabinet Officers  
and at Capitol.

Amid a brilliant assemblage of gold-laced American and French army men and frock-coated statesmen, President Wilson today grasped the hands of Rene Viviani, vice premier of France, and Marshal Joffre, and signified the intention of the United States to stand shoulder to shoulder with France and the other allies to the end of the war against Germany.

Seldom, if ever, has a pact been sealed with greater manifestation of mutual affection and esteem between two peoples. The whole ceremony did not occupy fifteen minutes, yet it was impressive in the extreme.

Other members of the French commission were received by Vice President Marshall and members of the Cabinet.

Members of the British commission headed by the Right Hon. Arthur J. Balfour, joined with dignitaries of the United States Government in officially greeting the French commissioners.

Conferences Begin Tomorrow.  
The Britishers completed arrangements today for the beginning of the war conferences scheduled to start tomorrow. Members of Foreign Secretary Balfour's commission visited several of the executive departments this afternoon, but their calls were for the purpose of getting acquainted with Government officials and laying plans for the conferences.

President Wilson will entertain the French commissioners at dinner at the White House tonight at 8 o'clock. Members of the British commission also have been invited. The dinner and a tour of the parks of Washington will complete the initial greetings incident to the visit of the French envoys.

Arrangements were completed today for the members of the commission to personally meet the members of the Senate during their stay here, when the commissioners went to the Capitol and met Vice President Marshall.

Lionized at White House.  
Field Marshal Joseph Joffre, accompanied by Minister Viviani, Admiral Chocheprat and Marquis de Chambrun, was lionized by crowds at the State, War, and Navy building, the White House, and Capitol as he made the official rounds today.

Although the demonstration was accorded the entire party of distinguished French visitors, the name of Joffre rang out above the din of cheers and plaudits.

When the party passed through the front gates of the White House grounds there was a large crowd of cheering men, women and children swarming the sidewalk. The suffragist pickets were conspicuously absent.

The dignitaries saluted the admiring enthusiasts in response to the hand-clapping and cheers.

Lansing Makes Presentation.  
Arriving at the White House, the commissioners proceeded at once to the blue room, where they were formally presented to the President by Secretary of State Lansing. Only the formal round of introductions was changed, this ceremony lasting only a few minutes.

Former Premier Viviani left the White House in an automobile to pay his respects to the Vice President at the Capitol, while Marshal Joffre and Vice Admiral Chocheprat, flanked on either side by their respective aides, walked to the west gate next to the Executive office and went directly across the street to the State, War, and Navy building.

Attaches of the Executive office were outside to see the party, and in the street below there were massed hordes.

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## PROGRAM OF ALLIES TODAY

British Commissioners Have Sched-  
ule Crowded With Dates.

The program of the British commission today included:

- 11 a. m.—Foreign Secretary Balfour and Lord Curzon held a conference with reference to \$200,000,000 loan, just obtained by British officials, as first share of the \$1,000,000,000 war loan of the United States to our allies.

- 2 p. m.—Mr. Balfour lunched at British embassy with Sir Cecil Spring Rice, the British ambassador.
- 3 p. m.—The Admiralty and War Office held a conference to discuss British naval questions at the Long mansion.
- 5 p. m.—Chinese Minister Wellington Koo will call at Breckinridge Long mansion to pay respects to Mr. Balfour and the other British officials.

Other members of British party spent the greater part of the day sightseeing and receiving, preparatory to conferences with American and French officials, which will open tomorrow.

## CHINESE DEMAND WAR.

PEKING, April 26.—At a conference of provincial and military governors, at which the premier presided, it was voted unanimously that China should enter the war against Germany. A convocation of parliament is overwhelmingly in favor of China declaring war, but President Li Yuan Hung is undecided.

TO PUSH \$4,000,000  
NAVY DEPT. HOMEHouse Committee Will Urge  
Bill For New Build-  
ing.

A tentative decision to favor a bill for a four million dollar building in this city for the exclusive use of the Navy Department was reached at a meeting of the House Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds today. Chairman Frank Clark will introduce the bill, and it will be considered formally at a meeting of the committee tomorrow.

The decision to recommend a new building for the Navy Department was reached as a substitute for the proposal to permit the Navy or War Department to use a part of the new Interior Department building during the war.

After the meeting Chairman Clark said he had decided to introduce the bill for a \$4,000,000 building for the Navy Department and to use every effort to get consideration at this session.

WILSONS TAKE UP  
HORSEBACK RIDINGPresident and Wife Enjoy Rec-  
reation on Rock Creek  
Park Bridle Path.

The President and Mrs. Wilson have taken up horseback riding as a recreation, and henceforth that pastime will alternate with golf as one of their diversions.

Unheralded and rather secretly, the President and Mrs. Wilson motored to Rock Creek Park last yesterday, and there went with Dr. Cary T. Grayson, the White House physician, for their first horseback ride. They took the beautiful bridle path of the park and rode unnoticed for more than an hour.

President Wilson returned to the White House just before dinner thrilled by the experience, and today arranged with Dr. Grayson for another ride through the park this afternoon or evening.

Handled His Mount Well.  
President Roosevelt and Taft were particularly fond of horseback riding, and made long trips. During the latter part of his Administration, however, Mr. Taft became partial toward big touring cars, and had a real mania for speed.

Dr. Grayson has long advocated horseback riding for the President as a splendid exercise, urging time and again that "the outside of a horse is good for the inside of a man." Not until yesterday, however, did the President yield to the advice.

Meager reports are to the effect that the President handled himself and his mount extremely well, despite the fact that it was his first equestrian experience for a long period. There was a time, it is said, when he was almost an expert horseman.

Mrs. Wilson Delighted.  
Mrs. Wilson presented a graceful picture on the horse she rode—a high-bred, spirited animal. It was her first ride since she became the First lady of the Land, and she was delighted.

I have always believed that horseback riding was unequalled as an exercise," said Dr. Grayson today. "It is a good for the digestive organs, and will furnish a form of exercise that is bound to be helpful to the President."

Dr. Grayson owns a number of well-bred horses, and is a splendid horseman, and formerly during his leisure moments spent much time in the saddle.

Some of the Secret Service men attached to the White House, including "Joe" Murphy and "Dick" Jarvis, are excellent riders, and doubtless will form the escort for the President and Mrs. Wilson on their trips through the parks and country heretofore in the future.

## \$100,000,000 FOR FARMS

All Postal Savings Deposits Avail-  
able for Agricultural Loans.

To aid the farmers of the nation in meeting the food situation, the Government today took steps to throw resources amounting to \$100,000,000 into the breach.

The action was the announcement by the Treasury Department that all postal savings deposits will be made immediately available for loans to farmers.

Farm loan bonds, issued under the Federal farm loan act, were today declared by trustees of the Postal Savings system to be acceptable at par to secure postal savings deposits, releasing more than \$100,000,000 of resources for investment in food production.

High labor cost and seed and farm implement prices have sorely drained the farmers' capital and hampered the great wartime food production.

## ITALY TO GET NEXT LOAN

Britain Represented at Conference  
on Advance to Our Ally.

British phases of the contemplated loan to Italy were gone into at today's conference between Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo, British Ambassador Spring-Rice, Lord Curzon, and Sir Hartman Lever, of the British commission.

This loan probably will be the next credit the United States will extend to the allies.

Great Britain has for some time been financing Italy, and naturally is greatly interested in any credit given her by the United States.

HIGH FOOD COST  
NOT JUSTIFIEDDistrict Investigating Commit-  
tee Finds Conditions Do Not  
Compel Price Increases.

## BETTER MARKETING URGED

Officials Blame Speculation and  
Inadequate Transportation  
Facilities for Burdens.

"After all the causes which may reasonably tend to increase prices are considered, there appears no just ground for such high prices of many products as are demanded of the consumer at this time."

This is the conclusion reached by the committee appointed by the District Commissioners to inquire into the food situation, a report of whose investigation was made public today.

The committee consists of George M. Roberts, superintendent of weights, measures, and markets; Dr. W. C. Woodward, health officer, and Charles F. Nesbit, superintendent of insurance.

Two Causes Found.  
Speculation and defective transportation facilities are causes which the committee says combine to make high prices and a food shortage in the District.

The remedies suggested are the establishment of a municipal market, organization of a comprehensive marketing system which will put the producers and communities in trading relationship with each other and make it possible to send perishable products direct from the point of production to the point of use and the utilization of waste for feeding stock.

In reference to speculation, the report says:

"In the opinion of the committee, the element of speculation in food products has been one of the potent features in the enormous increase in prices which consumers have been compelled to pay."

"Investigations made by the Federal authorities seem to have established this fact," it is added. "In Chicago, for instance, the number of carloads of potatoes by day a year held for orders at the railroad yards ago and this year, as disclosed by investigators of the Department of Justice, were as follows:

	1916.	1917.
March 10.....	116	82
March 11.....	126	63
March 12.....	135	92
March 13.....	129	74
March 14.....	149	98
March 15.....	143	104
March 16.....	116	66
March 17.....	127	63
March 18.....	143	74

Prices Drop Suddenly.  
"On February 26 potatoes were selling in Washington at \$8 per barrel; onions were selling for \$14 per 100 pounds; eggs were selling for 47 cents a dozen. Three days later, on March 1, after this committee and certain departments of the Federal Government had begun to make an investigation of the situation, these

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## WARRING ON RECRUITING

Vandals Tearing Down Posters.

Outrages Being Investigated.  
Opposition to the recruiting campaigns being carried on in this city to obtain men for the army, navy, or marine corps, is being manifested by the destruction of recruiting posters, according to reports received at the War Department today.

Investigation of the outrages is being made.

The latest report of the destruction of the placards was received from Drummond, near Tenleytown, on the Rockville road, today. A group of juvenile vandals had posted in conspicuous places several posters advocating service in the marine corps, in the vicinity of Drummond. By this morning the posters had been torn down.

Several reports similar to the one received this morning have come in to the department.

Cases will be prosecuted under the statute providing for the destruction of Federal property.

## BRITAIN LIFTS BLACKLIST

Measure Penalizing American Com-  
merce Formally Abolished.

LONDON, April 26.—The foreign office announced this afternoon that the "blacklist" against American firms had been withdrawn.

## TO DRAFT FOOD LAWS

Senate Subcommittee to Act With  
Agricultural Department.

Department of Agriculture in drafting emergency food legislation was appointed by the Senate Agriculture Committee today.

The members are Senators Gore, Smith of Georgia, Smith of South Carolina, Page of Vermont and Kenyon of Iowa.

Senator Gore said the committee is ready to recommend appropriations to enable the department to start immediately to survey the food situation and supply of the country and to extend the departmental market news service.

J. S. Cullinan, of Houston, Tex., representing the Texas industrial congress, put forward the plan of commandeering the vast grazing areas in Texas and Oklahoma for cultivation.

An offer by the Illinois Central railroad to let the land alongside its right-of-way be used for gardening

—proposals were laid before the committee.

ARMIES LOCKED  
IN DEATH GRIPGerman Counter-Attacks by  
Massed Troops Are Re-  
pulsed Everywhere.

## FOE STRIKES NEAR LAON

French Withstand Drive on  
Mile and Half Front, Inflic-  
ting Heavy Losses.

The forty-third day of the great British offensive and the tenth day of General's Nivelle's drive of his French forces, is developing everywhere along the great western front the fiercest fighting of the war. Germany's army chiefs everywhere were hurling great masses of men against the French and British today. Both London and Paris statements today were exclusively devoted to narration of the repulse of terrific counter attacks.

British dispatches revealed a practical standstill north of the Scarpe river, where the British and Germans were locked in death grips. Haig reported repulse of German counter attacks on Gavrelle.

## Battling On Whole Line.

General Nivelle's statement revealed the greatest efforts by German troops to force back the French wedge which has crumbled the southern base of the Hindenburg line. Most violent of all these attacks and most carefully organized was the drive south of Daon.

It was delivered on a front of a mile and a half in two powerful smashes—both of which were repulsed.

The French front withstood other counter attacks of varying intensity, along practically its entire line.

## Tremendous Attacks Felt.

PARIS, April 26.—Two tremendous German attacks made on a front of more than a mile and a half west of Cerny, were smashed unavailingly against French lines and repulsed. Fighting at night, the enemy, today's French official statement declared.

Powerful German counter attacks at two other places on the French front were likewise repulsed. Bitter fighting was reported from half a dozen points.

## British Armies Deadlocked.

LONDON, April 26.—Complete repulse of a violent massed counter attack by German forces against British positions around Gavrelle was announced in Field Marshal Haig's official statement today.

"Early at night the enemy again endeavored to attack our new positions at Gavrelle," he said. "His troops were caught in our artillery barrage and completely repulsed."

Germany is now suffering her most appalling losses of the war in desperate endeavors to stop the British drive by sheer weight of human masses opposing it.

Today it appeared that the British and the enemy were deadlocked to the north of the Scarpe. To the south, however, the British were slowly moving forward.

## AND THEY HELD THE LINE

British at Guillemont Kill Every  
Man of Attackers.

WITH THE BRITISH ARMIES  
AFIELD, April 26.—One single British post, defending just a part of Guillemont farm, emerged victorious from one of the fiercest fought of the countless scattered actions marking a day replete with bitter fighting—by killing off every man of their German assailants.

It was over a field carpeted with German dead around Guillemont. Here during the night the British had battered forward to take the farm and a stretch of front 2,000 yards east of Lempre, Hill 140, to the north, had fallen into British hands after a swaying desperate battle.

Hardly had the British started to dig themselves in on this hard won ground when the Teutonic attack came in blinding force. The enemy's guns dug great burial holes for the thousands of their dead. All over the farm the battle raged. The enemy managed at terrible cost to regain part of it.

But to the west the one British post stood adamant. On it beat wave after wave of the attack. The last and most violent caught full in the face the tremendous fire of the defenders' machine guns, halted, wavered, and literally melted into heaps of dead and twisted shapes.

The British held the line.

## NEW FOOD RIOTS IN SWEDEN

Even Soldiers Participate in Dem-  
onstration in Stockholm.

COPENHAGEN, April 26.—New food demonstrations at Stockholm are reported by the Dagbladet Nyheter.

The military commissary issued an order forbidding the Swedish soldiers to attend a Socialist meeting. Despite this order, however, several hundred soldiers participated in a great meeting.

Food demonstrations have also occurred at Upsala, forty-five miles from Stockholm.

## HELD ON MURDER CHARGE

Grand Jury Indicts Peter W. Allen,  
of Good Hope, D. C.

Peter W. Allen, of Good Hope, D. C., was indicted by the grand jury today on a charge of first degree murder, the allegation being that he shot and killed his stepson, Ernest Allen, on April 10, following a quarrel over family matters. Allen is under arrest.

## AMERICAN TO RULE WORLD FOOD

That some one American—possibly Herbert C. Hoover or Secretary of Labor Wilson—within the next few months will become Food Dictator of the World was indicated by developments at the international war parley of the allies here today.

More and more the war council's proceedings are crystallizing into a monumental campaign to feed our allies. Finance and shipping problems are coming to be considered comparatively collateral, though of course vital.

Man-power development for foreign service is even less pressing.

This was perhaps the most important outcropping from the world conference today.

One man, or a small group of men, will be named by President Wilson absolutely to dominate the production and distribution of all food in the United States, England, France, Italy, Russia, Cuba, and the other allied countries.

It is deemed probable that this step will involve the formation of an inter-allied food commission, comprising a director general of food for each nation, with the American dictator as the head of the commission.

The purpose of the conferences today is the international reorganization of the war since the United States is in, much on the same principle that an army of field fighters is organized: One branch handling the commissary department; another mobilization and transportation; another the collection and distribution of munitions, and so on.

HINDENBURG'S PLAN  
THWARTED BY HAIGTwo-thirds of German Re-  
serves Used Up Without  
Gain.

LONDON, April 26.—Far greater battles than those raging in the Arras region are impending in the immediate future. This statement is heard from many reliable sources today when the question arises whether the British have reached the climax of their artillery work.

Field Marshal Haig's plans apparently are developing excellently, and he is forcing von Hindenburg to do just what the British anticipated.

He would wait until he thought the allies had reached the highest point of efficiency and then throw in enormous masses of reserves to catch them on the down grade.

Reports indicate that the Germans already have used two-thirds of their reserve forces without gaining a single objective. At this rate their force will be spent in futile counter-attacks before the allies reach the mightiest force of their arms.

The British have already a wide front on which to deploy, and this front will be extended. There is not a single officer in London, who believes that the affairs on the Arras front will take a dramatic course, but all are assured that the British are going to give the enemy the worst hammering ever delivered to an enemy.

## PEACE SENTIMENT GROWS

German People Anxious to End War,  
Travelers Report.

The Germans are increasingly anxious for peace.

This was the message a traveler arriving in a neutral country from Germany gave to American diplomatic officials, according to a cablegram received today.

He declared that a strike of 250,000 laborers in Berlin "showed the growth of a desire for peace."

Moreover, he announced that Germany has reduced her bread rations from 1,900 to 1,600 grams per week.

## BOOM GERMAN REPUBLIC

Movement Flourishing in Switzer-  
land, American Minister Says.

Efforts to sweep aside Hohenzollernism and replace it by a German republic are under way in Switzerland.

A message to the State Department from Minister Stovall at Berne today said a committee of Germans has been organized there to spread republican propaganda.

Dr. Roese Meyer, former editor of the Berlin Morgenpost, leads the propagandists, who have already established a paper, "The Freie Zeitung," to further the movement.

## ALL STATES TO ACT

Meeting to Discuss Food Problems  
Will Be of General Representation.

That every State in the Union will be represented at the food hearing next week is indicated by responses received to date to the invitation of the Federal Trade Commission.

The commission last week invited the governors of all States to send representatives to a public hearing here next Monday. States heard from not only agree to send representatives and food experts, but strongly endorse the nationwide food inquiry plan of the Government and assure fullest cooperation in its promotion.

## GIRL ON DUTY AT ANNAPOLIS

Mabel Vincent Begins Work as En-  
listed Navy Member.

ANNAPOLIS, April 26.—The first woman sailor on duty at the Naval Academy reported this morning in the person of Miss Mabel Vincent, who signed articles at the Baltimore recruiting station. She is a second class yeoman, and will be assigned to the office of the experimental station. Several other young women can be used in a like capacity at the different offices connected with the Academy.

VOTE ON ARMY  
BILL IS NEARHouse Members Agree to Close  
Discussion Tomorrow  
or Saturday.

## FREAR DEFENDS WISCONSIN

Gardner Predicts Passage by  
Majority of Seventy to  
One Hundred.

Before midnight Saturday, Congress will have voted on the conscription bill.

House leaders today agreed upon a vote tomorrow.

Senate leaders set Saturday night as the time for the final roll call.

The House swung today into the home stretch of general debate on the army conscription bill, indications pointing to a vote late tomorrow afternoon or Saturday.

A unanimous consent agreement was reached today that the lower body shall remain in session late tonight to wind up the general discussion of the bill, with the provision that Congressman Kahn, leading the Administration fight for conscription, and Chairman Dent, of the Military Committee, chief advocate of the volunteer system, shall make the closing speeches tomorrow. The bill then will be taken up under the five-minute rule for discussion and amendment.

Smarter under Eastern criticism of the so-called pacifist State of Wisconsin and its members in Congress, Congressman Frear of that State today delivered the initial speech for the volunteer faction.

Claim Gains, Despite Clark.  
Advocates of conscription claim to be gaining ground today, despite the stirring speech of Speaker Champ Clark yesterday afternoon. The Speaker assailed those who believe that an army can be raised only by Compulsion.

Mason Is Hissed.  
Hisses met Congressman Mason of Illinois, Republican, when he charged that political motives actuated the Administration in not accepting the offer of Colonel Roosevelt to raise soldiers for immediate service in France.

The hisses were not general, but they were audible nevertheless. The hissing began in the galleries and was echoed to a slight degree on the floor.

The former Senator from Illinois, now a member of the House, bitterly arraigned the conscription plan. He asserted that keeping Colonel Roosevelt out of the war was a part of the Administration's opposition to the volunteer system, and predicted that "Roosevelt's application for service would be buried in the files of the general staff, after it went first to the President, then to the Secretary of War, and then to the Assistant Secretary of War."

"They don't intend to let the Colonel enlist for fear it will hurt the draft plan," said Congressman Mason.

"They don't want to let him make a hero of himself, for while he is spreading democracy in the Old World he may be raising hell with democracy in this country."

The sentence that caused hisses of disapproval was:

"The man in the White House hasn't the courage or political sagacity to permit him to enlist for fear he will profit politically."

In his attack on the conscription bill, Congressman Mason said the general staff of the army will not give volunteers a chance because it wants to kill the volunteer system.

"We want an army of fighters and not of slackers and cowards," said Mason. "There is nothing the Kaiser would rather meet than an army of conscripts."

Congressman Sherley of Kentucky delivered an equally impassioned speech in favor of the Administration plan, and subsequently Congressman Gardner of Massachusetts announced that he had made a poll of the House and the Administration bill voted win by a majority of 70 to 100 votes.

Congressman Frear, who voted against the war resolution, declared that he favored the volunteer system as opposed to the selective draft, and Wisconsin stands ready to supply her quota under the volunteer plan.

"A man from my State who opposes the draft bill," said Mr. Frear, "takes his political life in his hands. Most of the great newspapers favor the draft bill. I have received many telegrams from Wisconsin demanding that I support it—and these telegrams came from men who had never read the bill, and were sent before the bill was printed."

Recalls Iron Brigade.  
"I voted against the war resolution, as did some others from my State. I made no explanation of my vote and do not care to make any defense now."

"I desire to support the President in anything he may need in the way of money and men, and shall so vote. It has been suggested that in my State we are unpatriotic. Metropolitan papers of late have pointed the finger of scorn at Wisconsin."

Wisconsin had 100,000 in the Union army. She played a great part in one of the greatest battles of the war—Gettysburg. You all remember the Iron Brigade. One-half of some of the bravest men were lost. They were brave men. That was the character of men who lived in Wisconsin then and who live in Wisconsin today.

"Wisconsin will support the volunteer system without the draft if you give us the opportunity."

"Wisconsin has seven thousand men in the national guard. Let Pennsyl-